

RECKLESS RALPH'S

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 20 No. 11

November 1952

Whole Number 242



#863 of Boys of London, a rare English story paper which was reprinted from the Boys of New York. The sequence of stories and the advertising were the only changes.



## THE ROVERS OF THE SEA

by Topchin Twiddlewinks, Esq.,  
A.V., C.F., etc.

This very scarce and highly interesting Journal was published on the 11th March 1872. And, strangely enough, on the same day appeared number one of "The Rover's Log," a similar type of journal.

It seems that Edwin J. Brett, the publisher of "Rovers of the Sea" had unwisely let it be known in journalistic circles that he intended bringing out a journal for Boys with this title. Or, maybe, there had been some leakage of information from one of his staff. In any case, George Emmett, Brett's great rival, must have heard of Brett's intentions and Emmett managed to rush out number one of an imitation journal and get it in the shops on the same day as Brett's paper saw the light.

We are not here concerned with the "Rover's Log", which is, however, scarcer if anything than Brett's journal. So we will devote our attention to "Rovers of the Sea" alone.

"Rovers of the Sea" started with a fanfare of trumpets. There was a free distribution of colored plates. But the size of the journal was somewhat against it, as, in those days, in England, boys seemed to prefer a journal with rather smaller sized sheets. It measured 13x9¼". Each number had eight pages with a large front page illustration and three illustrations inside.

Prizes were given for coloring the front page picture with paints to be supplied by the firm of E. J. Brett. So the astute Mr. Brett possibly made up for the cost of the prizes by his profit from the sale of the paints.

The opening serials were "Roland the Pirate" and "Alabama Jack" both being tales of pirates. Then followed another sea yarn entitled "The Cruise of the Revenge." A further sea tale followed called "Dick Dreadnought" or "The Terror."

After this Brett seems to have helped himself freely to American tales, probably without permission.

A few titles will give some idea of the class of material with which he attempted to attract the boys of that period:

"Chipmunk the Wyandotte," "Death Dealer, the Shawnee Scourge of the Kickapoos," "Red Helm, the Female Pirate" and so on.

As for the illustrations they became fiercer and fiercer. A typical front page embellishment in a later number of the journal shows a horrible demon rider dressed in skins with claws on hands and feet, with an enormous mouth in which two large tusks were projecting, holding a torch in the right hand and riding a buffalo without holding.

At length "Rovers of the Sea" expired, but not from old age! The last number was 61. And the imitation journal, "The Rover's Log" ended with number 59 two weeks before the finish of Brett's paper.

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Edward T. LeBlanc, 36 Taylor St., Fall River, Mass.

Assistant Editor

Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

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Geo. Munro Co. Seaside Library, pocket edition, nos. 1653 1692 1701 1714 1736 by Gustave Aimard.

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## TRADE LIST

Beadle's Journals—The Boys of New York—The Little Chief—Forrester's Boys' and Girls' Magazine—Lee and Sheppard's Our Boys and Girls—The Argonaut 1882, 1884 bd. vols.—Harper's New Monthly Magazine, from 1853 to 1887, tho not as a run—The Arena Magazine—Leslie's Popular Monthly—Harper's Young People, Round Table—Routledge's Every Boy's Annual—Lots of cloth-bd. books, from 1878 to 1930, too numerous to list. Inquiries invited.

Everything sent postpaid, insured.

J. W. MARTIN

222 "C" Street

So. San Francisco, Calif.



## HENTY HINTS No. 7

W. B. Poage

Henty Fans and collectors can at least be thankful for one thing and that is that Henty wrote all his books and stories under his true name.

However, as to changed titles, that is something else. I don't believe that there is any other writer whose books appeared under so many changed titles.

Quite a number appeared under three and many many with two titles. I have even found that one of his short stories appeared under four different titles.

Many fans and collectors perhaps do not know or realize that Henty wrote more short stories than books and there are a number of short stories taken from his book length stories.

The first I have any record of is the Seth Harper Story Henty published in the Union Jack, volume one of 1880, and the latest to appear was Two Suits of Steel in Fifty Famous Stories for Boys, edited by Leonard Gribble and published in 1948.

The first story above as you all must know was taken from Out on the Pampas and the second is taken from A March on London.

It may be that publishers and editors got this idea from Henty, as any number have been taken from his books and published in Annuals in England, many more than anywhere else. They were great on these Annuals or short story books and prize or gift books.

For an example of how this was done, I refer you to Bravest of the Brave. Turn to chapter four, The Sergeant's Yarn and read through to page 108. I think that you will agree with me this makes a very fine little story. Strange to say this story was never published as a short story.

I am afraid with the above that the Editor of the Roundup may not want to allot me very much more space so I will give you what I call a Henty quicky.

## IN BED WITH A COBRA

Taken from With Clive in India

At Vellero Charlie nearly lost one of his faithful followers. Early in the morning Hessein came to Charlie's room.

"Sahib," he said, "something is the matter with Tim."

"What is the matter?" Charlie said, sitting up in his bed.

"I do not know, sahib. When I went to him he did not move. He was wide awake and his eyes are staring. When I went beside him he shook his head a little and said, 'Sssh.' He seems quite rigid, and is as pale as death."

Charlie leaped out and ran to Tim. The latter was lying on the ground in the next room. He had carried off three or four cushions from the rajahs divan and had thrown those down, and had spread a rug over him. He lay on his back exactly as Hessein had described. As Charlie hurried up, Tim again gave vent to the warning, "Sssh."

"What is the matter Tim? What is the matter my poor fellow?"

Tim made a slight motion with his head for his master to bend toward him. Charlie leant over him, and he whispered:

"There is a serpent in bed with me."

"Are you quite sure Tim?"

"He woke me with his cold touch," Tim whispered. "I felt him crawling against my foot, and now he is lying against my leg."

Charlie drew back for a minute and consulted with Hessein.

Charlie now procured two knives, the one a sharp surgical knife, from a case he had brought, the other he placed in a charcoal fire, which one of the men speedily fanned until the blade attained a white heat. Charlie had decided that if the snake bit Tim he would instantly make a deep cut through the puncture of the fangs, cutting down as low as these could penetrate, and immediately cauterize it by placing the hot knife in the gash so made. Six men were called in with orders to seize Tim on the instant and hold his leg firm, to en-



able the operation to be performed. Two others were to occupy themselves with the snake. Hessein now approached the bed from which hitherto they had all keep well aloft. The snake, Tim said, lay against his leg, between the knee and the ankle, and the spot was marked by a slight elevation of the rug. Hessein drew his tulwar, examined its edge to see that nothing had blunted its razor-like keenness, and then took his stand at the foot of the bed. Twice he raised his weapon, and then let it fall with a drawing motion. The keen blade cut through the rug as if it had been pasteboard, and at the same instant Tim sprang from the other side of the bed, and fainted in the arms of the men. Hessein threw off the rug, and there, severed in pieces, lay the writhing body of the huge cobra.

Tim soon recovered under the administration of water sprinkled in his face, and brandy poured down his throat, but it was some time ere he thoroughly recovered from the effects of the trying ordeal through which he had passed. Many of the buildings in the fort were in a very bad condition, and Charlie had several of the most dilapidated destroyed finding in their walls several colonies of cobras, which were all killed by the troops.

#### FROM ED LEITHEAD:

Charlie Bragin's letters of kind and expert comment are always first to arrive when I have an article in **ROUNDUP**, and Part I of **BOY DETECTIVES** brought the following from him, so full of interest to all Dime Novel collectors that I'm passing it along for others to read (C. B. should write more articles for **ROUNDUP**—he hasn't had one to my knowledge since his top-notch **FRANCIS WORCESTER DOUGHTY, UNCROWNED KING OF THE DIME NOVEL WRITERS** in the issue for August-September 1935). He says in his letter:

"A whole book could be written about Dime Novel detectives—Munro

was the first to see the tremendous possibilities in 'sleuth stories' and his Old Sleuth changed the dime novel picture—and started the downfall of Beadle.

"As you truly say, Western writers could not do good work on detective stories—but the Beadle writers HAD to go into that new field—

"People wanted Old Sleuth, Old King Brady, Old Cap Collier—Munro and Tousey and S. S. HAD the writers, Beadle had to use their Western authors.

"So Ingraham, Wheeler, etc., had to turn their Western characters into sleuths, with mostly sad results. Beadle was never able to create a 'famous detective' for a continued series.

"Talking about Young Sleuth—he appears in an Old King Brady story. When he introduced himself to Brady, the latter remarked, 'I recall you—you went up like a rocket and came down like a stick'—which just about covered Y. S.'s career.

"Incidentally, Doughty often made such 'remarks' in his stories, which is one reason they stand out above all other dime novel sleuth stories.

"Tousey always insisted that his writers—in the serial stories—end up, or include in each instalment, some 'ghostly' incident, in order that a terrific 'ghost' picture could be planned for the front of Boys of New York, Happy Days or Young Men of America.

"Tousey believed the PICTURE sold the paper, and he was right. Look at the terrific pictures in his Boys of New York, etc.—what boy could keep a nickel in his pocket, looking at same!

"Well, that forced writers into artificial stuff, they didn't mind it, but I think Doughty rebelled.

"In one of his J. B. stories, an old hag, assistant to the James Boys, is pictured horror-stricken at a ghostly figure in her fireplace.

"That event is described at end of first instalment of the story in Boys of New York.

"Boys naturally bought the second instalment, to find out 'who and



what,' but Doughty makes no mention in same, nor does he explain in third instalment.

"But he does—in next one he writes as follows, 'my reader no doubt by this time has figured out that the ghostly figure was our hero—if not, he can congratulate himself as being very stupid.'

"In another story, *The Haunted Belfry*, the picture in *Boys of New York* is certainly eye-catching. Shows sleeping city (Philadelphia)—our hero and his pal on roof of building, opposite a church belfry, in which a ghostly figure in Revolutionary War costume is pulling a bell rope—the bell does not ring.

"This picture is also shown in reprint of the story in *Pluck and Luck*. Doughty, with tongue in cheek, 'explains'—the ghostly figure is the detective in disguise. Why is he pulling the bell—why the disguise—asks the hero. Our sleuth replies, with finger to side of nose, 'We detectives do not explain all our secrets,' and the poor reader has to be satisfied with that!"

### NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Clyde Wakefield was sick Oct. 24th with the 24 hour grippe, but is all O.K. again once more.

I. S. Seidman wants Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspapers for April 29, June 17 and 24, 1865.

Here's some bad news, James W. Martin reports that T. G. Mauritzen has just died a few weeks ago, haven't the exact date on it yet, but about Oct. 1st I should judge, until we hear the correct date. We sure will miss him, as he was the owner and editor of "Welcome News." In the early 1930s he brought out a monthly magazine, known as "Chips," then later on it became *Sports and Hobbies*, of which some time later he sold to O. C. Lightner of Chicago, who bought other hobby papers and magazines, and made one large magazine out of it, called "Hobbies" which is still going. O. C. Lightner died a few years ago. Thor Mauritzen then after several years started the "Welcome

News," with stories on the west and thereabouts. He sure had some fine articles in the old "Chips," also *Sports and Hobbies*, such as on old novels and story papers. He has gone to the land of no return. God bless him always.

Earl Barr Hanson made a flying visit up to see some of us New Englanders, Ed and Tilman LeBlanc, Eli Messier and myself, on Oct. 7. What a day that was, only thing, it didn't last long enough when it was all over. Only thing was, Earle didn't get a chance to see the LeBlanc collection, as the day was gone before we knew it, and he had to get the 7 p.m. train for New York. We were all very glad to have met you Earle, and we're hoping the next time you'll be able to stop awhile and see more of the collectors up here.

### NOTICE

Beginning with the January issue there will commence a column devoted to free advertising for the use of members and subscribers for trading, selling or buying dime novels, boys' books, etc. The ads will be limited to between 15 and 20 words per item plus name and address, one item per subscriber per issue. Order of preference will be governed by the postmark date. In order to keep the column under control it will be limited to one full column per issue and the publisher reserves the right to omit ads not deemed pertinent. Surplus ads will get first preference in the following issue. Paid ads will continue to be accepted and are solicited.

The editor hopes to have an index for volume 20 ready with the January issue.

### NEW MEMBER

216 Robert C. Bayless, 1021 Archer St., San Diego 9, California.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

190 James F. Stroecker, 2529A East Hebert St., St. Louis 7, Mo.

171 Roy E. Morris, 901 East Michigan Ave., Orlando, Florida.

Those members over 3 months behind in the payment of subscriptions



will be dropped from the list of members to be printed in the December issue. All members in arrears have been notified by personal note. Please do not allow your membership to lapse.

**Statement of the Ownership, Management, Circulation, Etc., required by the Acts of Congress of August 24, 1912, and March 3, 1933**

Of the Dime Novel Round-Up published monthly at Lawrence, Kansas, for October, 1952.

State of Massachusetts ss.

County of Bristol

Before me, a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Edward T. LeBlanc who having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the owner of Dime Novel Round-Up and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of

the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher Edward T. LeBlanc, 36 Taylor St., Fall River, Mass.

Editor, Edward T. LeBlanc, same Managing Ed., Edw. T. LeBlanc, same Business Mgr., Edw. T. LeBlanc, same

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

Edward T. LeBlanc, 36 Taylor St., Fall River, Mass.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None

Signed

Edward T. LeBlanc

Owner

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3rd day of October, 1952

(Seal)

C. H. Camille Whitehead

(My commission expires May 12, 1955)

## URGENTLY WANTED

Back numbers of ADVENTURE Magazine from January 1916 through to December 1938 containing stories by HUGH PENDEXTER.

Will pay \$2.00 for short stories, \$3.00 for novelettes and \$10.00 for complete serial stories.

I will take magazines containing his stories even if the covers are missing or they are ragged or soiled; just so that the HUGH PENDEXTER stories are all present and readable.

Send list of what you have to

ROBERT C. BAYLESS

1021 Archer St.

San Diego 9, California

## FOR SALE

- VIRGIN LAND, by Henry Nash Smith, Harvard University Press. The American West as Symbol and Myth. This sure is a fine book. Two-thirds of it is on the old dime and nickel novels and is worthy of anyone's collection. Illustrated. Price ----- \$4.75
- THE GREAT RASCAL, by Jay Monaghan, 1951. The Biography of Ned Buntline, King of Dime Novelists and the promoter of Buffalo Bill, illustrated ----- Price \$4.50
- JESSE JAMES WAS MY NEIGHBOR, by Homer Croy, 1949, another fine book, illustrated ----- Price \$3.50
- BRITISH CIRCUS LIFE, by Lady Eleanor Smith and John Hinde, 1948. A very fine book on the circus over in England and many colored plates too, very interesting of the real circus ----- \$3.00
- MR. FRANK MERRIWELL, by Gilbert Patten (Burt L. Standish) 1941. The author of Frank and Dick Merriwell stories in Tip Top Weekly, Medal and Merriwell Series and others ----- \$3.00
- THE FEMININE FIFTIES, by Fred L. Pattee, 1940. This is a biography of the women writers, who wrote for the New York Ledger and other papers such as Ann Stephens, Jenny Lind, Augustus Wilson, Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., and others. Illustrated ----- \$2.00
- BOYS WILL BE BOYS, by E. S. Turner, 1948. The story of Sweeney Todd, Deadwood Dick, Sexton Blake, Billy Bunter, Dick Barton, etc. Illustrated ----- \$3.00
- STORY OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE, by Virgil A. Lewis, M. A. 1903. Illustrated ----- \$1.25
- THE TROJAN BROTHERS, by P. H. Johnson, 1945. This is a novel of love and jealousy set against a music hall background in London in the 20's ----- \$1.25
- JACK JOHNSON, in the Ring and Out, by Jack Johnson, 1927. Illustrated (former World's Heavy Weight Champion) ----- \$2.50
- HEY THERE, SUCKER, by Jack Dadswell, 1946. A fine book on the Circus, carnivals, shows, etc. Illustrated ----- \$2.50
- RHYMES FROM NEW ENGLAND, by George D. Rhodes, 1947. Rhymes such as Maple Sugar Time, Up in the Attic, An Abandoned Farm, Cape Cod, and many others. ----- .50

All for \$30.00

All are new books and will make very fine Christmas presents. Many of them are scarce, as I only have a few left, get your order in early.

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.